the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL
28
LGY#922

WELLS
McGUINNESS
FARMER
MENYZ

PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A ***SPIDER***, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED ***"SPIDER-SENSE"!*** AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

When he was captured by the Living Brain, DOCTOR OCTOPUS sent his robotic legs to find Spider-Man for help. How did they find him? By kidnapping J. Jonah Jameson! Spidey wore the legs to defeat the Living Brain, and when Doc tried to kill Spider-Man with those same legs? They wouldn't let him!

Doc Ock has had enough. Unable to fathom why the robotic limbs would harbor sentiment for Spider-Man, he concluded that they must be defective and it was high time for an upgrade. Ock built himself a new set of tentacles, comprised of hundreds of individual OCKTOID robots, who aced their first test by ripping apart the old ones. Nearly destroyed with nowhere else to turn, the old legs managed to crawl to Jameson's doorstep for help.

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WE'VE GOT A MAN DOWN!

OSCORP

SIR, YOU CAN'T--!

I NEED PETER PARKER!

GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY, EGGHEAD!

I'M THE JANITOR.

HANES

PETER! THANK GOD I FOUND YOU...

JONAH?

LOOK WHAT THEY DID TO HIM.

EXCUSE ME, ARE THOSE OTTO OCTAVIUS'S MECHANICAL ARMS?

WHAT HAPPENED?

I DON'T KNOW. THEY TURNED UP ON MY DOORSTEP LIKE THIS.

CAN YOU PUT 'EM BACK TOGETHER?

NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT. THOSE BELONG TO *DOCTOR OCTOPUS.*

PLEASE *REMOVE* THEM FROM MY FACILITY.

OSBORN, YOU HEARTLESS GHOUL! WHAT DID THESE THINGS EVER DO TO YOU?!

TRIED TO KILL ME. *MANY TIMES.*

OH, *YOU* CAN CHANGE BUT *THEY* CAN'T?!

HE'S RIGHT, NORMAN.

HRMPH!

THESE THINGS WERE ACTING AUTONOMOUSLY LAST TIME I SAW THEM. THEY...THEY SAVED MY LIFE.

YOU'RE *KIDDING* ME.

CAN WE AT LEAST TRY TO HELP THEM?

PETER...

IT ALL HAPPENED IN **ASM #900!** --NATTERING NICK

FINE.

TAKE THEM TO LAB THREE.

ATTA GOBLIN!

I KNEW THERE WAS A HEART BEATING IN THERE SOMEWHERE!

gwarble gwarble gwarble

HIDEOUS.

THIS GODLESS MACHINE HAS A FOUL TEMPER, OCTAVIUS.

IT HAS *MY* TEMPER, SERGEI.

MY PREVIOUS *APPENDAGES* EXPRESSED AN ABHORRENT PART OF MY PERSONALITY I FOUND HIDING IN THE VENTROMEDIAL CORTICES OF MY PREFRONTAL LOBE.

I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN. THE NEW ONES ARE ALL *AMYGDALA.*

PURE AGGRESSION TO FUEL MY *REVENGE.*

A *TOY...*

...UNDERCUTTING YOUR MYTHIC STRUGGLE WITH THE SPIDER.

AH, SERGEI. SUCH A FOCUSED HUNTER YOU DON'T SEE THE FOREST...

gwarble gwarble gwarble

I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.

WHAT HAPPENED?! A-ARE THEY OKAY?

THEY'RE FINE. NORMAN'S JUST FINISHING UP.

WHAT?! WHY AREN'T *YOU* IN THERE?!

NORMAN'S THE EXPERT WHEN IT COMES TO OTTO'S TECH. THERE'S A HISTORY THERE--

YEAH, WELL, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE WAS LOOKING AT THEM!

IF HE LEAVES SO MUCH AS A *SCRATCH*--

JONAH! EASY! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

LAST TIME I SAW YOU WITH THOSE ARMS, THEY WERE HOLDING YOU HOSTAGE.

NOW YOU'RE ACTING LIKE THEY'RE THE *FAMILY PET.*

WELL...MAYBE THEY STARTED COMING AROUND MY PLACE MORE OFTEN. JUST TO STAY OUT OF THE RAIN, THEN MAYBE FOR A WARM PLACE TO SLEEP.

AND MAYBE I TRIED TO CHASE THEM OFF AT FIRST...BUT MAYBE I STARTED LOOKING FORWARD TO THEM COMING AROUND.

CURLING UP ON THE BED...

KEEPING MY FEET WARM...

JOHN JONAH JAMESON. YOU OLD *SOFTY.*

I...I JUST DON'T THINK I COULD HANDLE IT IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO THEM...

HEY, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO WORRY.

THEY'RE IN GOOD HANDS...

LAB NOTE: REPAIRS WERE RELATIVELY SIMPLE OWING TO THE DEVICE'S DESIGN PHILOSOPHY.

SPECIFICALLY, COMMUNICATION-FLOW PRIORITIZATION BETWEEN APPENDAGES AND NERVOUS-SYSTEM INTERFACE, PRESUMABLY TO PROVIDE STIMULATING FEEDBACK FROM RADIATION.

THIS GREATLY SIMPLIFIED DIAGNOSTIC INTERFACE AND FACILITATED TARGETED REPAIR.

IN LAYMAN'S TERMS:

ALL DONE.

CLICH

ZZ+?

HOW IS OUR PATIENT FEELING?

ZZZZTP!

ZZTZZTZZT!

STOP THAT! I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!

Hnng!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

WHAT? IT'S JUST SIMPLE DIAGNOSTICS CABLE!

OR IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO...

SYSTEM COMPROMISED

OH NO.

SYSTEM COMPROMISE

I BELIEVE NORMAN OSBORN HAS JUST LEARNED THE DANGERS OF TAKING IN *STRAYS*.

AND NOW FOR A SECOND LESSON: IF YOU TAKE FROM OTTO OCTAVIUS, DON'T PUT YOUR *NAME* ON YOUR BUILDING.

NOT IF YOU EXPECT TO KEEP IT.

gwarble

gwarble gwarble

LET'S GO, BOYS.

gwarble

gwarble gwarble

gwarble

gwarble

gwarble

HELLO, SIR! DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?

I DO NOT.

EEEEEEEEE!

HEY! IT'S ON MY COMPUTER!

HAVE A GREAT DAY.

IT'S EMAILING MY EX!

GET 'EM OFF ME!

gwarble

gwarble

CHUK!

TH

O-OH, GOD! ONE WENT UP MY LEG!

KNOCK KNOCK.

PETER! THE ARMS WERE A TROJAN HORSE!

OTTO'S CODE IS IN THE SYSTEM!

IT'S NOT JUST HIS CODE!

OTTO IS HERE.

SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING CHANGED?

DON'T WORRY. THE SECURITY DOORS ARE STRONGER THAN ANYTHING OTTO IS CAPABLE OF. BY DESIGN.

gwarble gwarble

ALL RIGHT, MY OCKTOIDS.

EVERYONE HOLD HANDS.

gwarble gwarble gwarble gwarble gwarble gwarble gwarble gwarble

CLUTCH!

RRRRRENG EE

SECURITY BREACH.

SECURITY BREACH.

COUNTERMEASURES INITIATED.

OOH... COUNTERMEASURES.

THROW IT ALL AT ME, OSBORN. WHATEVER OBSTACLES YOUR GENIUS CAN DEVISE.

I'LL FIND THE CHALLENGE A TANTALIZING AMUSE-BOUCHE BEFORE I--

ZEEP ZEEP!

DEAR SWEET HOLY GOD, WHAT IS THAT?!

THAT'S BUG.

ME AND BUG WANT YOU TO LEAVE.

AFFIRMATIVE.

HA HA HA!

NEVER!

OCKTOIDS!

SWARM!

CAREFUL!

MULTIPLE TARGETS INCOMING.

gwarble

gwarble

gwarble

gwarble

OKAY, THIS IS NEW.

BUG! GET ME SCHEMATICS ON THESE THINGS, I NEED--

BUG!

gwarble

gwarble

GAH!!! I DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER *FIXING* THAT THING...

--hurk!

YOUR MACHINES ARE *PLAYTHINGS*, SPIDER-MAN!

TRIFLES!

MINE ARE ENGINES OF DESTRUCTION!

CRASH

ARGH

THEY DON'T PAUSE TO BE CUTE!

THEY DON'T OFFER RETORTS!

SMASH

Hnng!

THEY ARE MADE FOR ONE PURPOSE.

TO IMPOSE MY WILL.

G-G-GARK...

GO ON. I'M WAITING FOR ONE OF YOUR CLASSIC *BON MOTS.*

CRRNCH

ZZZT

Nnnn... nnnn...

WHAT'S THAT? COME ON, BOY.

SPEAK UP.

Nnnn... nnnn...

...nnnn...

HE'S TRYING TO SAY "NORMAN."

AS IN OSBORN.

I HAVE TWENTY WAYS TO PUT YOU DOWN IN THIS THING, OCTAVIUS.

DON'T MAKE ME PICK ONE.

WHAT CAN I SAY, NORMAN? I'M A CURIOUS CAT.

DO YOUR WORST.

I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY...

GIZZET

...SAY THAT?

SYSTEMS COMPROMISED.

SYSTEMS COMPROMISED?

AFTER CHASM'S ATTACK, I--

REWROTE YOUR TECH'S ENCRYPTION FROM THE *GROUND UP.*

PITY YOUR STOOGE ALLOWED ONE OF HIS *SPIDER-BOMBS* TO COME INTO MY POSSESSION.

SHRT SHRT SHRT

BLAH!

AEEEEEEE!

THUNK

DO YOU FEEL MY NEW POWER, SPIDER-MAN? DO YOU FEEL YOUR *INSIGNIFICANCE?*

CAN'T GET MY LUNGS TO TAKE IN AIR.

BODY IN SHOCK.

D-DON'T...

CAN'T...

BE THANKFUL FOR IT.

CAN'T..

IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT KEPT YOU ALIVE.

I DIDN'T FORGET WHAT YOU DID TO ME, *GOBLIN KING.*

WHAT YOU TOOK FROM ME.

IMAGINE ALL I WILL TAKE FROM *YOU.*

TO BE CONTINUED!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

Hey there, Web-Heads!

OH NO! SPIDEY! YOU ARE HOSED! Doc Ock has never been so deadly, so dangerous, and so...well, MEAN! Anyway, as I write this, it's May 18th, and what a week it's been! I'm going to peel the curtain back a little bit and will peel it back even more later this year. But a few days ago, two of the last pages of ASM #26 leaked with the death of Kamala Khan. We figured it would leak, but we did as much as we could to preserve the story for you all for as long as we could. And, BOY, did this news get a reaction. I wish this reveal could have been closer to the release of the book so people could read the whole issue before reacting. But que será, será!

As you read last issue, the ramifications of ASM #26 are still being felt in ASM. We're a couple of weeks from sending FALLEN FRIEND: THE DEATH OF MS. MARVEL to print. I'm looking forward to sharing that issue with you and dreading the tears that I'm going to shed as we get it ready to print!

On a different note, I did want to fess up to a mistake that we made! In ASM #19, we wrongly and accidentally referred to Mary Jane and Paul as being "mysteriously married." We were in the middle of our insane holiday shipping period, and I must have written too quickly and not looked back at it enough. Mary Jane and Paul are not married (yet?). I wanted to fess up for months on this, but I didn't want to spoil anything or have my confession alter people's perceptions. I am very sorry! Mistakes were made, and it's still better than the time I misspelled "Isaac Newton" on a cover! I look back at the times Stan called Spider-Man "Superman" to make myself feel better.

Onto your letters!

Hey Web-Heads,

I just finished reading ASM #25, and I only have one thing to say, good job. I never bought Paul and Mary Jane, but I said if the story of how they got together made sense and felt organic, I would be able to accept it, and that is just what Wells delivered. While it breaks my heart to see Mary Jane tell Peter she's not leaving Paul to return to him, I can accept it. Hard times and trials can truly bond people together, and trying to live and survive while protecting orphaned kids in an apocalyptic world would do just that. I will forever maintain the hope of Peter and Mary Jane getting together again, and until then, I remain a loyal reader of Spider-Man!

Take Care,
Matt Roberts, A.K.A. Mr_Comics89

Thanks for writing, Matt. Totally get the skepticism but glad to have won you over at least a little bit. Life is a complex, often sad, and unfortunate thing. What do you DO with those complex, sad, and unfortunate aspects of life? Well, that's Spider-Man, right?

Nick,

You want us to think it's going to be Mary Jane. But is that too obvious? Could it be the Black Cat who's finally going to have her luck run out? Will the story be called "Bye Felicia"? Is that also too obvious? I'm a mix of emotions here, I don't want either to go.

Also, just to put it out there, I wouldn't hate a new Mary Jane limited series further exploring her time away written and drawn by Kaare Andrews. Just putting it out there...

Best,
Larry Boxshall
Melbourne, Australia

Thanks for writing, Larry! My friend Lauren lives in Melbourne and so it always has a soft spot for me. Anyway, we DID want you to think it was MJ going to die in ASM #26! Zeb is obsessed with twists and turns to the point that I'm truly worried about the people in his life. Never say never about more Kaare or more MJ or more Black Cat!!!

Dear Zeb-Heads (see what I did there?),

Well, you did it again! I just finished reading ASM #25, and darn it if I didn't have tears in my eyes by the end of the issue--EVEN THOUGH I KNEW WHAT WAS COMING! Learning about what happened to MJ and Paul while Peter was back in the 616, trying to find a way to come back to save them, watching the time pass and the evolution of the relationship and bonds between MJ and Paul, was satisfying, even though it broke my heart knowing that Peter was working tirelessly to get back to them (HER!). And the explanation of how "the kids" entered the picture was very welcome, as their origin has been a topic of much conversation among my Spidey-friends group. I hope we'll get more of their backstory at some point, for while what we got here may have answered some questions, it certainly begs others: Where did they come from? How did they get to this place? How did they manage to survive, and for how long had they been on their own? Anyway, the story we did get in this issue did a great job of succinctly but earnestly illustrating how these four strangers grew to trust one another and form the strong bonds of a family, which is just how MJ describes them to Peter when he does finally succeed in returning.

But none of that was what really got me choked up--that was the scene after Peter left MJ at the hospital when he was confronted by the FF and Captain America, and Peter's anger and despair are so overwhelming to him that he's itching for a fight, for someone to "hit me back." That Peter is looking for someone to inflict physical pain on him to take his mind off his emotional pain may not be healthy, but it's certainly relatable and heartbreaking. That's what I love so much about this book, about Peter as a character in particular, and why I'm enjoying Zeb Wells' writing so thoroughly: This is what has always made Spider-Man such a beloved character! He's not perfect. He's doing the best he can to do good in the world, but he's flawed. He makes mistakes. He doesn't always win. And maybe he makes unhealthy choices in dealing with his pain and loss. Who can't relate to that?! But I'm also pleased to see that there is character growth and healing, as seen in Peter's developing relationship with Felicia: This demonstrates that, even though really bad (devastating) stuff happens in life, in time, we can learn to move on with our lives--not forget but heal and grow and make a new way forward in life. It's a story of hope in the face of all the challenges and pain life entails. And that's something we can all appreciate.

Loving this run! Keep up the great work, and keep on thwippin'!!!

Jeff Markovics
Portland, OR

Hi, Jeff! Thanks for writing in. So glad that what we're doing is working for you. Those emotional beats are why I wanted Zeb and Johnny on this book. For my money, no one writes visceral emotion like Zeb. And Johnny, well, his acting is superb. Every character performance is Oscar-worthy.

Dear Spidey-Office!

Before anything else, I feel compelled to applaud the entire art team for the work they've done in #25. JRJR's storytelling and Scott Hanna's inks complement each other like none other. Kaare Andrews was a welcome addition with his terrifying Wayep and Rabin but also excelled in the quieter moments with MJ. Regarding the story, Zeb Wells has crafted an enthralling narrative, even if I don't always agree with the characterization at points in the series. This book answered some but not all the questions raised so far, and with #26 having a smaller page count, I don't know if it's going to be accomplished in a satisfying way. Nevertheless, arcs like Tombstone, Vulture, and Hobgoblin have more than earned my trust.

Hoping for a great conclusion, and looking forward to the Wedding of the Year.

Sincerely,
Miguel Ganhão
Moura, Portugal

We hope you enjoyed ASM #26, Miguel. As far as page counts go, #26 had one more page than #25 for the main continuity-thrust part of ASM, but I understand your concerns! Hope it landed for you! Kaare did such an amazing job on the MJ story, and I'll never stop singing the praises of Joltin' Johnny! I mean, what a gem of a human, and what a gem of an artist. Scott Hanna and Marcio Menyz as icing on the cake? THAT IS A CAKE AND A HALF!!!

Hi, Spider-Team!

As a lifelong Spidey fan, I never tire of reading about the adventures of our ever-friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. Even after over nine hundred issues, I say nine hundred more! Spider-Man means so much to me and my partner of over thirteen years. We've been together for so long, and she recently gifted me (believe it or not) a genuine copy of AMAZING FANTASY #15!!! I was flabbergasted! SPEECHLESS! So I was hoping that the Spider-Team could help me return the favor in a monumental way. She got me the comic that introduced the world's greatest super hero, so I'm asking if you could put my message to her in the greatest comic series of all time!

Katie, I know you're reading this. The world may see Spider-Man as the greatest super hero, but you'll always be my super hero. You've saved me in more ways than I can count. You make me a better person and inspire me to live every day with great responsibility. Will you make me the happiest Marvel fan in the world and marry me?

Thanks for the help, Spider-Team!

Derek N.
Queens, NY

OH WOW!!! Derek!!! I can't wait to hear what Katie says!!! Please write back ASAP!!!

Gotta go! Keep thwippin'!

Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor
Astoria, Queens
5/18/23

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

NEXT: **ISSUE #29**

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